





## OUR LITERARY GALLERY.

## THE ANGORA CAT.

By F. ANSTEE.

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Perhaps I am hardly justified in occupying columns originally reserved, as I understand, for the writers' own personal experiences, with a history in which I myself played no part whatever. The only excuse I can offer is that it was related to me by a friend, who had the best of titles to be acquainted with it, and that, though I cannot promise a narrative of a wildly sensational order, it is at least lively to prove more entertaining than any reminiscences of my own. How I came to be told the story was in this wise: I was dining one evening at a house where my friend was a guest. I arrived before him, and when he was announced, was struck by the evident excitement of the children of the house, who had been allowed on this occasion to come down and share the "bad quarter of an hour."

"That's him!" I heard them whisper, as he came in they ought, as carefully educated young people, I suppose, to have said, "That's he!" only they did not. "No let's ask him if he's got one now!" And, as soon as they got a chance, they went up to him and eagerly requested to be informed "if he had it—if he had brought it—if he would bring it," with a persistence which, although he laughed at it, he did not seem altogether to enjoy.

"But I can't ever get another!" I heard one child say. He said, "No, he did not think he ever should." "Won't the one you did have come back?" He did not mean to press it to do so, he replied, and just then, to my manifest relief, the announcement that dinner was served brought release from his small tormentors. My own curiosity was aroused. I found myself absurdly anxious to know what this thing was that he had been expected to bring, and seemed well contented to have lost and I hoped that some day my friend might find himself able to confide in me. This happened sooner than I could have expected—that very evening, in fact; we took our leave together, and when we were outside, he asked me to come round to his rooms for a smoke on my way home. I accepted, and as soon as we were comfortably settled in his quarters, I made some remark (not, I am afraid, without ulterior views), about the children of the house where we had been dining.

"Oh, they are nice children, yes," he said, a little suspiciously, but confounded little nuisances at times. By the way, was it you who told them that precious story?" he inquired suddenly.

"I represented that I was innocent, for excellent reasons."

"I thought every one knew it by this time," he said; "not that it's much of a story, for that matter."

"I said that, if he did not mind, I should very much like to hear it, notwithstanding."

"You see," said he, "it's rather against myself."

I urged that, so far as I was concerned, this was really no objection whatever.

"Well," he said at last, "I'll tell you, because there are all sorts of versions about, and you may as well hear the right one. But there's really nothing much to tell. It was this way. You've met Mrs. Dresden, haven't you? Not long married. She was a Miss Saxe, you know."

I had had that pleasure, and he continued:

"I knew her people, and naturally I wanted to send her something rather nice as a wedding present. I don't know if you are like me, but I'm a little particular about choosing wedding presents. I hate seeing all the things set out, and then finding I've given the seventh salad bowl or the eighteenth dinner-gong. Clocks and lamps are safe, of course, but they betray such poverty of invention, and I must say I like, if I can, to send something they really want and will value, don't you know, and I was very anxious not to make any mistake this time. Only I couldn't make up my mind what to choose, and at last, being utterly up a tree, I thought I'd ask her, as I knew her well enough for that, if there was anything she hadn't got and would particularly care to have."

"So I did, and she said it had been the dream of her life to possess an Angora cat."

"Well, I knew she wouldn't be likely to have a set of those given to her, because people generally give something that makes more of a show on a table than a cat does; but I wished she had chosen a dog all the same—I could have had her a first-rate dog, and I'm not by way of being much of a connoisseur in cat-fancy."

"Still, of course, after that, it had to be a cat, and I must do my best I could, that was all. I had plenty of time for, naturally, she wouldn't want it till the honeymoon was over—but when the newly-married couple were expected home again, I thought I had better go and see about purchasing the animal. I was a good deal at the East-end of London just then, and it happened that I had had several dealings with Stockden (you know his name, of course—man who sells every imaginable kind of foreign beast over the counter). I knew he could put me in the way of what I wanted, and I went to him. His place of business is in Commercial-street, and when I got there I asked for Stockden, and was told he was away, bidding for elephants at a menagerie sale, but an old seafaring kind of chap said that if I would follow him he had the very article for me."

"So I followed him inside, and down a very narrow lane between a double row of cages and dens, where all sorts of queer-looking brutes, with claws and bills and beaks, reached out after me as I edged along sideways. 'They hallus him at the hey,' the guide said, and the llama and camel they mostly spit! Then we got up a ladder into a little den, with a stove, on which a white cockatoo was sitting, and more cages, and a smell in it, and then the sailor passed a cage where a baloon with a blue nose sat, grunting like a pig, and stopped at the next, in which a miserable, mangy little grey beast was running up and down restlessly. 'That's the article for you, sir,' he said, 'from Teheran, he is—direct! I said it didn't appear to be in very good condition. 'We can't look after it here, sir,' he said, 'not to say properly. But you take that cat home, and give it plenty of milk, regular, and it'll surprise you the way it'll fill out. Bless your eyes, its fur'll come out fine as if you'll see what an Angora cat is capable of being!'"

"So the end of it was I had the cat sent round to my room, where it seemed rather mopy and scared, though it certainly improved wonderfully while it was with me; and then, as soon as I knew the Dresdens were at home, I sent it on to them."

"She wrote me a most enthusiastic little note a day or two afterwards, thanking me again and again for the cat, and saying it was the joy of her existence—which, of course, I was awfully pleased to hear."

"A little later I had another note; they were going away for a few days on a visit, after which she hoped I would call. She was sure I should be delighted with the way 'my present' was getting on, it positively doubled in size every day, and was getting so beautifully marked, and so on. Evidently, considering that I had no experience, I had not made such a bad choice. After all, it was pleasant to think of that rather unprepossessing cat expanding into beauty like a hyacinth; but this satisfaction did not last long."

"One awful day I got a telegram from Stockden: Return animal at once or cannot answer for consequences," it said. I posted off to Whitechapel immediately; Stockden was in this time, and much agitated. 'I wouldn't have had it happen for anything in the world!' he said. 'An old customer like you too—it's too bad! And I couldn't send to warn you before, sir, for I mislaid your address. That such a thing should have happened in my establishment!'"

idjit as sold it to you, he don't know a cobra from a kangaroo, he don't!"

"What was it?" I said. I was getting frightfully uneasy.

"It's a lynx!" he answered; "and if it tastes meat it's not safe to be in the house with—so now you know!"

"I couldn't wait for a man to accompany me, though I was promised one in half an hour. I hurried to the Underground, and off westward with as little delay as possible. I had given unsuspecting Mrs. Dresden a lynx for a wedding present. She might be frowning with it now! I can tell you that was a fearful railway journey for me. My one dread was that I might not arrive in time to prevent some appalling catastrophe. When I got out at the nearest station, I tore along in the first hansom I could find to the terrace which she had given me as her address."

"The first glance at the house-front confirmed my worst fears—the curtains at the dining-room window hung in tatters, and the glass was smashed in an immense star, like a shop-front in a pantomime—from inside I could hear sounds of subdued wailing!"

"I assure you I simply hadn't courage to knock or ring. What had that infernal lynx of mine been up to in that quiet household? Where was poor Mrs. Dresden? and what oh! what—should I say to Dresden when we next met?"

"And then, I don't know whether I was more relieved or more embarrassed—for another hansom drove up—and out of it stepped Mrs. Dresden herself!"

"I couldn't find anything to say to her for my life, but she didn't seem to notice the look of the house at all. 'This is fortunate,' she said. 'I didn't think it was so fortunate—if it came to that—but I smiled in a chastely sort of way, you know, and she began to tell me how she had just come to town that morning, and had left her husband in the City. 'But why are they keeping us out all this time?' she said, beginning to be impatient. I said I rather thought it was because I hadn't rung, and I knocked and rang like blazes; but nothing came of it, and I tried to tell her what I had only too good reason to fear—but I couldn't somehow—the words wouldn't come."

"I'm quite impatient to see my pussy again," she said. "Aren't you?"

"It struck me the pussy might be even more impatient to see us. I had a fearful time on that doorstep, especially when poor Mrs. Dresden began to explain apologetically that her servants were both young and not quite up to their duties as yet. 'Would they ever be up to them at all?' was what I was wondering! At last, after what seemed hours, we heard sounds in the passage. I seized my umbrella—it wasn't much against a lynx, but it was my only weapon. How I wished I had stopped to buy a revolver! However, it couldn't be the lynx that was troubling the front door, and presently it was opened a very little way, the chain being still kept up, and a face peered timidly through the chink. Such a poor little blurred, frightened face, wrapped up in a deeply ensanguined bandage! 'Maria!' cried Mrs. Dresden, 'what does all this mean? Open the door this moment!' Maria opened the door. 'Thank heaven, mum, it's you at last!' she gasped, and burst into tears. As I came in, I observed that her right arm was in an extemporised sling. 'Oh, mum,' she sobbed, 'that was never so heartily cut! It's the young of a lion, mum. And the cook's worst!'"

"We went downstairs, where we found the cook, frightfully clawed, under the dresser in a semicircle, and the sight of her mistress was only so far reviving as to send her into hysterics. But she came round at last, and then we heard the whole horrible story."

"It seems they were sitting at dinner, which consisted of fish, of which the supposed Angora showed a strong desire to partake. They gave it one or two morsels, and then, as it became unmanageable, drove it away. ('And please,' added Maria here, 'it had been setting its teeth and baying every hour, mum, all the time you've been away!') Annoyed at being repulsed, it was on the table with a bound, and, in an instant, the dish was cleared. With another bound, it was on the hapless Maria, who had every prospect of speedily following the fish, if the cook had not interfered with the kitchen poker. The exasperated brute then flew at her, and was only beaten off by Maria's timely handling of a rolling-pin, when it took refuge on the dresser, and left the crockery in ruin."

"Well, these two plucky girls engaged that lynx in desperate hand-to-hand combat for a quarter of an hour! It naut have been an exciting business—that running fight and guerrilla warfare, up and down the stairs of an ordinary London house, the lynx fiercely contesting every landing, and declining on any terms to be manoeuvred into the back garden!"

"At last, when they were getting exhausted, it made a charge, and leaped over their heads. ('Swearing like a Christian,' said the cook) into the dining-room, where it made hay generally, and finished by bounding clean through the window-pane and over the area railings into the street. After which it was seen no more."

"Then, when the danger was all over, the gallant garrison considered they had earned the right to faint, and fainted accordingly—and small blame to them. But I'd give anything if I could only have been in time to tackle the brute myself."

"Well, that's all, you know. I was awfully sorry, of course, though it wasn't really my fault, and Mrs. Dresden was uncommonly nice about it. 'I wish I had never asked you for an Angora cat at all,' she told me; 'but of course I had no idea they were like that.' Still, it was an awkward thing to happen, and it got talked about, don't you know; and, in short, it was a disagreeable business altogether."

"And what became of the lynx?" I asked, as he stopped.

"Oh, the lynx? Well, to tell the truth, I feel rather shy about inquiring. But I believe he's about somewhere still. I fancy he took cover in a neighbouring park, and he's certainly not been caught yet."

"But how does he manage to live?"

"As to that, I can't say, but I have been once or twice rather mysterious disappearances about those parts lately," said my friend, with a troubled expression. "Anyway, it was rather a beastly sort of wedding present to give anybody, wasn't it?"

I said it certainly did seem open to that objection.

[The sketch on view in our Gallery next week will be "PLAYS AND PLAYERS: SOME EARLY RECOLLECTIONS," by E. BUCHANAN.]

## AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

The quarterly meeting of the executive committee of this society, which extended over four days, was brought to a conclusion on Saturday. The president occupied the chair, and there were present delegates from the different towns. The report stated that the number of members enrolled during 1887 was 1,633, and that thirteen new branches had been opened. There were addressed to the effect that the total of 125 children making a total of 544 since its establishment, of whom 308 were in receipt of payments to the amount of £1,732 per annum. Superannuation was granted to twenty-one members for old age or accidents. Resolutions were passed to the effect that no one shall be installed as a member who took part in the Midland strike; that the remarks of Sir E. Watkin be condemned; and also that the ten hours movement shall not be taken up as a society question. A deputation was appointed to discuss the amalgamation of the English and Scotch railway societies.

TO MAKE A GOOD TRAIN CASE.—Mix well together one pound of brown and red sand, and one pound of red ochre, and one pound of white ochre, and one pound of yellow ochre, and one pound of black ochre, and one pound of blue ochre, and one pound of green ochre, and one pound of purple ochre, and one pound of pink ochre, and one pound of brown ochre, and one pound of red ochre, and one pound of white ochre, and one pound of yellow ochre, and one pound of black ochre, and one pound of blue ochre, and one pound of green ochre, and one pound of purple ochre, and one pound of pink ochre, and one pound of brown ochre, and one pound of red ochre, and one pound of white ochre, and one pound of yellow ochre, and one pound of black ochre, and one pound of blue ochre, and one pound of green ochre, and one pound of purple ochre, and one pound of pink ochre, and one pound of brown ochre, and one pound of red ochre, and one pound of white ochre, and one pound of yellow ochre, and one pound of black ochre, 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## THE POLITICIAN.

**WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.**

The frost has sadly interfered with 'Varsities training operations. Cambridge.

From the first, well-wishers to football did regard with favour the proposed trip to Australia. The Rugby Union have not given the speculation their support, though its promoters reckoned receiving it. Unless they do goot with the Union approval they will not do any good in the colonies. The expenses of taking twenty-one players on a long voyage to the antipodes and back, keeping them there, and travelling to fulfil engagements, will be enormous.

whole of the proceeds therefrom to the London Angling Preservation Society. Instead of having them on the list of societies to be supported by the London Benevolent Society, they have been made public, affords fair ground for comment, and there are good reasons for supposing that the London anglers, whose support for the tournament is, or will be, asked, will not register with favour. The T.A.P.S. is probably not short in want of funds than it was when the last tournament was held; and why should the Angling Preservation Society, which has the right to enjoy the confidence and support of the members of London angling clubs, be deprived of what would be a substantial benefit for the sake of a society which, to judge from the pecuniary success it has afforded it by London angling clubs, is evidently not as at present constituted, for some reason or other, in a position to do so.

Having noticed several of your correspondents speaking of large roach, I thought it might perhaps interest some of your readers to know that we have in our club-room a large coarse roach taken by one of our members, Mr. C. Fall, of 175, Grosvenor-street, Borough, which may compare favourably with any I see, and which I have the pleasure to send you, if not superfluous, any in London. Their named weight is 12lb. 9 oz. each one turning the scale at 2lb. or upwards, the largest being a fine specimen of 2lb. 7 oz. I have also a case of 12 roach taken by me, and I have the pleasure to send you, if not superfluous, each of these weighing 2lb. or a little over. I am, Sir, in affectionate remembrance of you, and I have the pleasure to send you, if not superfluous, each of the above weights can be guaranteed, as they were weighed in our club-room before a large body of our members and friends before going to be preserved.

**BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.**

Discovery has just been made at Paris of a poultry which have become unfit for human consumption are often made to look all right by the process of embalming. This trick is played on geese, turkeys, and chickens alike; the a

**THE ACTOR.**

## THE ACTOR.

The feature of the evening was the song sung by Mr. Rutland Barrington (of the Savoy), humorous words written by Mr. Cunningham, the music composed by Mr. Francis Cellier. This was a series of pronouncements on "Men of the Day," among those "off" being (of course) Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury. The company joined heartily in the chorus, and the ditty was altogether a great success. So was the supper which followed, at 11 in the morning, and which was partaken of at the Duke of Beaufort, the committee, and the guests in a specially-built pavilion, where there would have been altogether charming if it had not been so chilly. But then, how was it possible to contend against an arctic temperature like that which prevailed that morning?

The present engagement of M. Coquard at the Royalty should be specially interesting to the London public if it be because it will be marked by the performance of so many French plays of which adaptations have been made. Thus, we find in the programme the names of "Le Deputé Bombignac" ("The Candidate"), "L'Attaque turque" ("Hosanna"), "Le Juif Polonois" ("The Bells"), "Les Pattes de Mouche" ("A Secret Paper"), "Le Joie Fait Feu" ("The Night Morning"), &c.; "Graincourt" ("The Beggar"), and "Oscar, ou le Mari qui trompe sa Femme." Of course some of these have

### GENERAL CHATTER.

In the hope of finding the owner, a correspondence has forwarded to me a pawnticket which he lately picked up in High-street, St. Giles. I will therefore give its contents, merely omitting the number and the name of the pawnbroker, to leave room for identification:—"Burnt Tree, Tipton, 18 April 1887. Pawned by Mr. W. H. Gladstone, of Dollie Hill, Hampstead, 2 fannel shirts for the sum of 1s. 7d." It needs scarcely be said that I entirely disbelieve the authenticity of the pawner's signature and address. Mr. W. H. Gladstone is a stout, well-endowed to have occasion to raise money on his clothes. Nor am I aware that he ever stayed at Dollie Hill; it was his father who lived up there for a time last year.

English growers who complain of being overtaxed had better keep away from Brunswick Georgia. The mayor and council of that city lately issued a new code of taxes and duties, from which I will cull a few items. "Each menagerie shall pay \$25 for every performance; each acrobatic or other show shall pay \$50 for every performance; each circus shall pay \$100 for every performance." These, however, are mere samples; the confiscatory list hits every profession and trade and calling exercised in the town down even to organ-grinders, who have to pay a week for licenses. But the funniest item of all is that which ordains a tax of \$40 on persons opening oysters for sale, "the same to be remitted if the parties opening will give the shells to the city for use on the streets."

The Crown Prince's health does not seem to make much improvement. Although the suspicion that lung complaint had set up proves to be a groundless alarm, the learned professor who was called in to report upon that supposed complication left San Remo with a troubled mind. He is reported to have expressed a very unfavorable opinion of the illustrious patient's general condition, while the fact that Sir Morell Mackenzie has prolonged his stay for another week sufficiently proves that something has gone wrong.

Electricity is going to have another tussle with gas. It appears, and this time we are assured will be a life-or-death battle. The main advantage of electricity is its considerably lower cost. That, one, is pretty certain to give it the victory. Then, there is still an element of uncertainty attending the electric light, which has a disadvantage of extinguishing itself without warning. I prefer petroleum to either of these illuminants, burning nothing else at my private residence. It involves a little trouble, but is much superior both in brilliancy and economy.

Asphalt pavements came out much better than wood in the late ordinal by snow. That beautiful and incongruent gift of the heavens melts more quickly on asphalt than on wood or gravel, and after deliquescence the surface is not so slick as it is on wood. Asphalt is, too, asphalt is altogether superior to flagstones, which become uneven in a short time after laying and hold water in their depressions. Londoners much work cut out for her before she can rank as a well-paved city. Asphalt throngs the roads, I think, be best, and I have seen that they are, until the water laid on for washing purposes.

A Belgian company has become lessee of Heligoland bathing establishment at a cost of three-quarters of a million francs. It would be cheaper to buy the Great Eastern and transfer her off the German coast. She is about the size as Heligoland, I believe, and could be transferred to the German flag, which the island carries. Brunel's monster vessel would make a seaside resort if moored off some sheltered point of the South Coast. Bathing, fishing, lawn tennis, promenading, theatricals, flights and other high jinks might be carried on more noon, and night amid the most healthful surroundings. She would be, in fact, a first-class maritime hotel of a very improved sort.

## THE LOUNGER.

"In the Ranks" will be revived at the Surrey Theatre on Monday, in which the Surrey company will make their re-appearance.

Under the title of the Bedford Hall, G  
well-known coach factory at Clapham is  
transformed into a public hall, suitable for  
certa, dramatic entertainments, and balls.

"Arragh-na-Pogue," with Mr. and Mrs. coigne in the two chief characters, succeeded "Romany Rye" at the Marylebone Theatre.

Madame Tussaud and Sons have added to their unique collection of relics the camp bedstead which the Duke of Wellington slept during the night before Waterloo.

Père Lunette, the proprietor of the low t in Paris where M. Gil Naza, the actor who c the character of Coupeau in the "Assom studied his prototype from one of Lun customers, is dead. The tavern will short pulled down.

In the Royal Ear Hospital, Frith-street, square, 646 patients were under treatment (2) February.

John Westerby, a farmer and butcher, of Hailover, near Spilsh, Lincolnshire, appeared at the Guildhall on Thursday, to an adjourned summons, to answer the charge of having se carcass of a calf to the London Central Market, the same being diseased, unwholesome and totally unfit for human food. Ald. Gray fined him £7, and £3 ss. costs, &c. for the month's imprisonment.



## CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Mr. Howells's*.)  
Mr. Howells's suggestion, that the papers should be prosecuted for publishing challenges to fight, is about the boldest thing that any man, representing a constituency like Bethnal Green, could venture upon. Unless Mr. Howells had proposed that cabbages should be abolished, and donkeys put down, he could scarcely have proposed a measure more antagonistic to the feelings of his constituency. Besides, if the prize fighters are sent to gaol, where are the "organisations," of which Mr. Howells's friends know so much—where are the "demonstrations" to get their stewards and the leaders? Above all, what will the Radicals do when they contest an election on the rule of law, as they are doing at present with Mr. Darling, at Deptford?

The way that counsel have begun to talk to magistrates is full of comfort for the unfortunate public who are sometimes called upon to give evidence. It is quite nice to know that magistrates are not to be left out in the cold, and that there are other people to be made tremble as well as the victims whom the bar often treats worse than the criminals themselves—the poor wretches whom ill-luck compels to be witnesses.

**NORMING LIKE THE BEAR.**—The best dress-improver, a beautiful woman. The best trunk—an elephant. The best note paper—from the Bank of England. The best Bacon—Shakespeare. The best ship—friendship. The best nautical tune—sea-mew-sio. The best trousers stretcher—a full purse. The best "central fire"—a volcano. The best "Brush" system—the Shoe-black Brigade. The best revolver—a good waltzer. The best firearm—the poker.

**OVERHEARD.**—I hear, laird, ye are gaun to be married? "Yes, Sandy, and what for no?"

"A weel I dinna ken! But if ye will tak' an auld man's advice, dinna tak' a wife wi' ailler. My wife had twal puns when we married, and I niver heart the end o' till it was a dune."

(From *Punch*.)

**"CORPORAL!"**—Schoolmaster (at the conclusion of the interview): I think, sir, you will have no reason to regret placing your sons under my care. I may mention that in our time we have turned out two senior wranglers, neither of whom have looked back with regret upon the curriculum.

—Parent (self-made man and strong-minded): The curriculum—oh, certainly—if you ketch 'em wranglers or any o' that nonsense, turn 'em out, mister! Neck and crop! I don't spare the a—the curfew or whatever yer call it. (With a warning look to the young gentlemen): Let 'em 'ave it!

**THE MYSTERIES OF HEREDITY.**—Dr. Lambertson: Yes—fine girl; but look at her mother, Danny! If you want to know exactly what young girls will be like when they're middle-aged, always look at their mothers, my boy—and beware!—His son: Oh, Lor', governor! I say! . . . Does the same rule apply to young fellows and their fathers?

**OUR FISHERY-COMMISSIONERY YOUNG MAN.**—Jeph Ch-mb-rin (rally): Sport? Why certainly! Enjoyed myself amazingly, you bet. I'm asked: "What's the net result? Is it barren?"

—Guest that's not bad for Joseph. O reservoir! as we Fishery Commissioners say.

(From *Judy*.)

**SHORT METRE.**

When Sloper, with unsweetened voice,  
Sings hymns, this truth is taught:  
Man wants but little here below,  
And wants that little "short."

When a mother looks tenderly at her innocent and helpless offspring, why is she not like a Turkish soldier?—Because it is a Mameluke!

**BRITONS NEVER SHALL BE SLAVES!**—Mr. A. Pease has brought in a bill to amend the law relating to slavery. What slavery? Perhaps the measure is founded on the radical notion that we Britishers are all slaves under the most degraded tyranny extant, and Pease will lead us out to war against it. However that may be, slavery has nothing whatever to do with Pease—it is one of the have-beens.

The lady who had her attention riveted on an object in a shop window has had it released by paying the cost of the operation.

**THE GENTLE REBUKE.**—Old Actor (who "can remember Edmund Kean, sir"): Well, youngsters, how did you get on in that scene?—Priestish Young Ditto: Oh, I knocked 'em, sonny! Fairly knocked 'em silly!—Old Actor: H'm! Extraordinary how some of you fellows manage to impress your individuality on an audience!

(From *Pan*.)

A widow, wallowing in wealth, recently married her lawyer. Widows are daring at times, but this lady deserves a medal for valour as large as the hottest crumpet of commerce. We trust that her life with the man o' law will not be a brief one.

Being giddy leap year, of course it is the fashion for ladies to take gentlemen down to supper at dances; but that's no reason why they should sneak all the tid-bits after having done so. When ladies play at being men, it is only fair that they should carry the game right through, and gnaw the tough legs of aged fools.

**BEANSWONDER.**—Sir: This crisp, salt breeze is very invigorating, don't you think?—He: Yes. I can do any amount of beer after it.

This is a hard-working month. Poor February! I'm always sorry for it. It will not get a day off till next year!

**ANOTHER DOG GIVEN A GOOD CHARACTER.**—London Visitor (affably): Nice bull dog you've got here, George.—Stableman: You be right, sir. Noisest dog as ever wur warranted to kill anything, from a hehphant to a mouse. His 'eart's in the proper place, it is. Lor' bless yer, there's hardly a week as passes but he hev a good tryin' mesel out of some un's leg. He he tried the calves of all on us, from the bishop himself down to the page-boys. I think he took quite a fancy to you, sir!—(L.V., and a friend who is with him, beat a courteous retreat.

(From *Funny Folks*.)

**THE INNOCENT ON THE WINDY WEATHER.** (And What he Wants to Know, You Know)—What's the difference between a War of Words and a Wind "Mill"?—Isn't a Sharp breeze typical of a Cutting wind? Doesn't one realise a Biting blast in the Teeth of a Gales-gust? Eastern isn't a Trade wind the sort that Scatters the "Dust"? How is it that Sea breezes are generally Fresh ones? Isn't Three Sheets in the Wind the reverse of a Steady breeze? When the Wind Drops, is it considered a lucky Windfall? Doesn't a blustering East wind give one the idea of Windy Weather? Isn't it natural for a boy-stir-us Wind to play mischievous pranks? When it blows Great Guns, don't the mere nobodies feel the effects of the wind as well? Isn't the kind of wind which pigs are supposed to see a—gentle Sough? Wouldn't a Squall in the nursery, a Breeze in the drawing-room, and a Blowing-up in the kitchen combine to make a domestic storm? Isn't starting with a Puff a good way of beginning to Raise the Wind? Won't light breezes be always as welcome in Summer as Zephyr they were?

(From *Ally Sloper*.)

How is it that lovers can spend so much time in each other's society, and not appear to get tired of one another? "Inquired the Hon. Billy the other evening, with an envious glance towards Footsle and Lord Bob. "The reason," replied Sloper, "is that they are always talking about themselves."

"It is of no use my arguing with you, Mrs. P.," said Mr. Penkecker. "I never dispute with fools." "Of course you don't, Penkecker," returned the old lady; "you would naturally agree with them."

"Fine oranges, a penny apiece!" shouted a coster. "How much for a whole one, my man?" interrogated an old gentleman. "A penny apiece, sir?" "Yes, but I don't want a piousman's whole one!" exclaimed the old gentleman. "Garn, said the coster, 'I don't bloomin' well know what yer mean' well do want. Fine oranges, penny apiece!"

## SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From *St. Stephen's Review*.)

On the occasion of Prince Oscar's marriage to Miss Bibba Munk two Swedish clergymen, who have been specially summoned to come over for that purpose, will be present at the ceremony. The Crown Prince of Sweden will come from Stockholm, as will also Prince Eugene from Paris.

I hear that Lord Tennison is in very poor health; in fact, so feeble is he that he rarely does any writing now. No one, therefore, need be surprised should he shortly give up his position of Poet Laureate to a younger and more able man. Tennison, it is also said, feels keenly the stings of adverse criticism, of which he has had his full share lately. He once said, "I am like a traveller in a lonely desert, when suddenly there appears on the horizon a figure which shoots an arrow that reaches me, enters the flesh, and remains there; and although the wound is small 'tis a smart I cannot forget."

The impotent howls of despair, the lowering brows, and even the imprecations of the Irish fraternity as each new rule has passed would be amusing were they not so pitiful. It is surprising how effectually cowed the party, as a party, is; and yet I cannot but feel cordially concurring with Mr. W. H. Smith that there is nothing for it but to establish some more stringent method of dealing with obstruction. I foresee danger ahead.

For example, I see an epoch when a fickle country, which in times of excitement does not know its own mind, has returned a Radical majority to the House of Commons, and I see an unscrupulous Radical Prime Minister wielding with crushing power these rules of procedure. A bill is brought in to disestablish the Church. No matter how sound and sensible may be the arguments adduced against the passing of the measure, the closure is applied by the unscrupulous Prime Minister, and the Church is doomed.

If the Radical element in the State were not known to be wholly oblivious of the rights of justice, there would be no danger to be apprehended from the passing of these rules; but as it is, when I see certain pronounced Radicals actually supporting the new rules, I begin to reflect upon contingencies; and who can help it?

(From *Life*.)

Speaking of Prince Wilhelm of Nassau (whose travelling companion I happened to be from Cannes to Paris) I should have thought that the busy journalists who have been for some time past occupying themselves in trying to find a suitable husband for one of the Prince of Wales's daughters, might have proposed him as a suitable candidate for the hand of one of the princesses. The prince, though 38 years of age, barely looks thirty, enjoys excellent health, and makes the impression of a sailor who has just returned from a long sea voyage, though he has only once crossed the sea, from Kiel to Denmark (which, however, takes only a few hours' crossing), when he was invited to join the family circle of the Prince and Princess of Wales and their daughters. But he returned soon after without losing his heart, and he declared he had such a horror of the sea that he would not willingly venture on it again he it even to win a wife.

Thus far he is still a celibate, unless the charms of either the Princess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, sister of the reigning Grand Duke, or the Princess of Baden, niece of the Grand Duke, will induce him to change the life of a single man to that of a *homme marié*. Prince Wilhelm, whose brother died some years ago, is the sole heir to an immense fortune, and possesses, moreover, other excellent qualities, so were it not for the difference of religion, he would long ago have found an Austrian princess who would have been willing to share his title and fortune. The prince, who entered the Austrian service eleven years ago, is now a colonel in the Hungarian Honvuds, where he is very popular, and nothing delights him more than when he has an opportunity of conversing in that language, in which he is very proficient; indeed, he is an excellent linguist all round.

Immense preparations have already been set on foot everywhere throughout China in connection with the approaching marriage of the young Emperor—which, as is known, was to have taken place last year, but owing to want of funds in the Emperor's exchequer was postponed till the next year. I learn from a native paper that thousands of hands have for some time past been busy with the lady's trousseau and wedding presents, all of which are of a most costly description and will rival in wealth any other court. Besides the presents for his fiancée, the Emperor has to give to the bride's parents valuable presents as well, which include 100 ounces of gold, one gold tea-set, 5,000 taels of silver, one silver tea-set, one silver wash-basin, six horses, completely harnessed; also one Court dress for summer and one for winter, one everyday dress, and a whole coat. These are only a few of the gifts the parents will receive from their future son-in-law. The brothers and servants of the lady also come in for a fair share of the Emperor's generosity.

(From *the World*.)

I am assured that the silver wedding present to the Prince and Princess of Wales, subscribed for by a few peers of Ireland personally acquainted with their Royal Highnesses, will not take the form of a silver figure of Ireland, but consists of choice specimens of old Irish plate of the time of George III. At the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons a sum of £500 was voted to purchase a present for the Princess of Wales in commemoration of her silver wedding. It is, I hear, to take the form of a large diamond butterfly, which is now being specially manufactured by Messrs. Johnson, Walker, and Toller.

San Remo is full of patients in search of Sir Morell Mackenzie. Numbers have arrived from all parts of Italy, and one is coming there from Cairo, while others have followed him from London. Sir Morell's stay at San Remo has been protracted in compliance with the earnest and personally urged requests of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess.

A paragraph has gone round the papers reporting the distress of the Crown Prince because he has been deprived of his pipe. This is a non-sensical invention, as the Crown Prince, who has by no means an inveterate smoker, never had a pipe in his mouth except when he was hunting or campaigning. He smoked cigarettes and cigars of no very great strength. The account of the Crown Princess habitually filling her husband's "big-bowled wooden pipe" is a fine example of the lie circumstantial.

At the Drawing-room the monotony of the proceedings in Buckingham Palace was pleasantly varied by one lady persistently failing to see the Queen's extended hand behind her own enormous bouquet, and saying "What?" in a loud tone in answer to Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane's well-meant endeavour to direct her. Her Majesty could scarcely forbear joining in the subdued titter which the incident occasioned, and some members of the Royal circle nearly laughed outright.

(From *Truth*.)

There is an end to Prince Henry of Battenberg's hunting. The Queen has issued a most unequivocal ukase on the subject. Prince Henry got a very nasty fall two days before the Court left Osborne. He dislocated both his arms and his shoulder-blade, and he must have suffered excruciating pain for several days. This poor princelet is, however, under rigorous discipline, for even a convict would scarcely have been forced to travel in cold and stormy weather, but the Queen would not permit him to remain at Osborne till he was somewhat recovered, and in less than forty-eight hours, fully-nilly, he was under weigh for Windsor. This is the second "cracking" fall that Prince Henry has met with during the last two months, and perhaps the Queen is not far wrong in thinking that he must in future be debarred from the "pleasures" of the chase.

I hear that Mr. Sankey is about to return to this country to conduct a series of those religious entertainments which he found so profitable about a dozen years ago. He will not, however, on this occasion be accompanied by his former coadjutor, Mr. Moody. Mr. Sankey will probably find that emotional religion has been rather overdone in this country of late, and that it is no longer the paying business it used to be.

Mr. Harrison Branthwaite, who keeps a home for inebriates at Tricknam, sends me some statistics about his patients which are rather interesting reading. Mr. Branthwaite's object is to show that "drunkenness is a disease amenable, like other diseases, to careful treatment." Let me warn every one against mixing their liquor. Twenty-three of Mr. Branthwaite's fifty patients were given to "all kinds" of stimulant. Contrast this with the fact that there was only one exclusive wine drinker and one exclusive beer drinker, and the moral is obvious.

MARCH.

Old March, with snow-crowned head, has come at last.

And wind, and changing skies follow his train; Whilst rushing blasts and ever-beating rain; Tell of a dreary winter, not yet past.

Wild, stormful month, when spotless snowdrops peep.

With odorous violets, from their soft white beds. And bow beneath each blast their lovely heads. Or 'neath their leaves in modest splendour sleep.

Ah! few can praise thee, month so drear, forlorn. And yet thou biddest us to hope and wait. For soon shall break the glorious Easter morn, And spring be heralded in pomp and state.

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**CRITERION.**

A verdict of accidental death was on Saturday returned in an inquest on the body of James Purley, 38, a lamp-maker, of 6, Kiroy Buildings, Old Ford, who was found drowned in the docks.

As a number of fishing boats were returning to Arbroath Harbour on Saturday, one of them, the Jane Smith, was struck by a squall and capsized. A boat put off from the shore, but before she arrived, three of the five men who composed the crew were drowned.

Just by way of illustrating the red-tapeism which still prevails in certain offices, I may mention that after a meeting of officers in Liverpool with regard to the Liverpool marching

[illegible]

the house of Mrs. Benlow, in the Lower Richmond, and represented that she possessed of property in Essex. She agreed to pay a guinea and a half a week for the place she occupied and for other necessities were supplied to them. No money, however, could be obtained from the prisoner, the 4th of December a sum of £400 owing by her, and the landlady informing her she could not allow this state of things to go any longer, and she must leave the following day. The prisoner appeared very much distressed at this, she being at that time far advanced in pregnancy with the child which she was subsequently delivered in and she made a statement to the landlady of the house, indicating an intention to commit suicide. The four children were to be bed as usual on the night of December 10th at this time the prisoner was in possession of a bottle containing laudanum and accounted for it as intended for outward application to the back of the neck, for the cure of neuralgia, from which complaint she was suffering at the time. During the night she appeared to have administered a portion of the contents of the bottle to each of the children, and then to have taken some of the ingredients herself. The children, it was ascertained, and none of them sustained any

Mr. Boehm had nearly completed his Lord Iddesleigh, which is to be placed in Central Hall at Westminster, when he died a flaw in the marble, and consequently a flaw has to be carved.

"A BLOW TO THE APPLICATOR."—Johnson's Galvanic-Therapeutic Appliances contain all the latest researches in medical electricity, and are the outcome of years' practical experience (approved by scientific men) and the elite of the medical profession. They are comfortable, and effectually applying mild continuous electric currents to all the organs of the body, curing rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, lumbago, neuritis, myalgia, erysipelas, erythema, bronchitis, pleurisy, emphysema, functional disorders, nervous and every form of nervous or organic derangement, the most efficacious means of curing all the above ailments. Advertised. Pamphlet post free. Electro-Therapeutic, Gal. payable to the order of Messrs. J. H. Johnson & Co., Ltd., 55, New Bond Street, London, W. (Advt.)















**Queen's Bench Division.**  
*(Before Baron Huddleston and a Special Judge.)*

**SINGULAR ACTION BY A COLONEL—MARSHAL**  
**ATTORNEY—Colonel H. E. Marshat brought a**

City of London Court.

**Bow-street.**

**Marylebone.**

**Clerkenwell.**

**Thames.**

**BRUTAL ASSAULT.**—Patrick Feeley, a fairly built fellow, aged 22, described

**A ROUGH LOT.**—Robert Gowe was charged with violently assaulting Frances Nai...

**Westminster.**

**Lambeth.**

**Hampstead.**

**Hammersmith.**

**THE WORKHOUSE TEST.**—Henry White labourer, was charged with neglecting to perform a task of work while a casual in Fulham Workhouse.—George Cumber, superintendent of the wards, said the prisoner was only 12lb. of stones.—The prisoner asked the magistrate that he had to make a break.—Mr. Paget: How many was he required to break? The Witness: The prisoner was 100 lb.—Mr. Paget committed the prisoner for one month.—John Smith, a blower, was next charged with destroying clothes while a casual pauper in the Nottinghams.—George Perry, the superintendent of other clothes were provided.—Mr. Paget committed him for one month.—Thomas C. a labourer, was charged with neglecting to perform his task of work in the same way.—Arthur Fox, labour-master, said the prisoner was an inmate, and on Friday he was required to grind two bushels of corn.—The prisoner said he was taken off his bread and put on the mill. He asked the court to let him get through to the city.—The labour-master said that two bushels of corn would weigh about 1cwt. The prisoner only 14lb.—Mr. Paget ordered him imprisoned for twenty-one days.—Adolphe Jousseau was also charged, and he said the quantity was too much for a day's work.—He was committed for twenty-one days.—Thomas Hall, a labourer, was charged with neglecting to do

**Greenwich.**

**INQUESTS**

**SHOCKING RAILWAY FATALITY.**—Mr. George Collier held an inquiry at St. Bartholomew's

Hospital respecting the death of James Middleton, aged 22, a shunter, late in the employ of the Great Northern Railway Company.—George Wicks, a porter in the same employ, stated on Thursday he was engaged with the deceased in shunting at the Farringdon-station Station. Deceased had only been permitted shunting a few days before. Witness went to the top of the yard, leaving deceased at the middle. They were making up a train, and witness sent down four wagons, which reached the deceased in safety. Before sending the wagons he gave the usual signal, and deceased was moving. A sight of the signal subsequently sent him to halt, and following them he found the decedent lying in the six-foot way. Witness asked what was the matter, and he replied, "Let me be, for God's sake. I am dying." He was afterwards taken to the hospital, where he died shortly after admission.—In reply to a jury, witness said he was unable to say whether or not the deceased used a pole for uncoupling. John Widdard, the foreman of the yard, stated that deceased was not supposed to be between the wagons when the signal was given. Witness also stated that he did not see the pole thrown from the side.—Medical evidence was given that death was due to the injuries received, and an open verdict was returned.

**SETTING FIRE TO A SISTER.**—Mr. Wynn Baxter held an inquiry at the Town Hall, street, Shoreditch, respecting the death of John Frances Harvey, aged 1 year and 4 months, daughter of a police-constable, residing at

### LIVELY SCENE IN OXFORD.

**A BETHNAL GREEN ROMANCE**

**A VINDICTIVE FRENCHMAN.**

### Abominable Accusations Withdrawn

Ernest Charles Foubert, a French gentleman residing at 207, High-road, Kilburn, appeared at Marylebone Police Court on Saturday to answer adjourned summons for publishing a defamatory article concerning the Duke of Cress, a prorepublican lady, employed as an assistant in the military department of Moscow, Owen of Westbourne Grove. A second summons charged him with using threats towards her. There were three summons for publishing a libel concerning Mdlle. Laurence Pons. The circumstances of the case have already appeared in the *People's Press*. In March last the young lady resided with her parents at Romsey, Hampshire, where the defendant was also staying at a school, learning the English language. Without being introduced to her, the defendant began paying her attention and used to follow her to and fro from business. He also used to write love letters to her, and drop them on the doorstep of her school. The defendant followed her, when in London, and would kiss her four or five times, as she said, to see if she would like him. She did not like him, she wrote him, saying so, and ceased to have anything more to do with him. After that she received letters from the defendant containing the libels complained of. In one letter he said he had loved her, but she had betrayed him, and now he hated her with all his heart, strength, and soul—he hated her as much as she had previously loved her. He cursed her for ever.

## FATAL ACCIDENT TO A CARMAN

## A LAMPLIGHTER'S STORY

**A LAMPLIGHTER'S STORY.**  
THE "Bridgewater Mercury" furnishes the following interesting facts—John Hickman, of Bridgewater, is a Canadian. His good nature and his ready willingness to be made public, have made him a favorite with the people of his town for over twenty-nine years, his name and face are familiar to everybody in Bridgewater. He is liked by all, and it is safe to say one may go here, there, or yonder, and whether he meets this, that, or the other person anywhere within the limits of our town, he will be sure to find a well-wisher of John Manly's. While his life has, generally speaking, been an uneventful one, he has, nevertheless, during those twenty-nine years, had some strange experiences, and some almost flaming hot or cold. He has been weathered many a storm and wintry for the cause of his present rejoicing is best explained by quoting his own words, and we will only add that, being familiar with the facts of the case, we gladly make public the statements which are as follows:—"Ever since I first got my appointment from the Gas Company, in 1857, I have made it a rule to let nothing interfere with my duties, and for seventeen years I never missed a day. I was prospered, my family was comfortable, my mind at ease; but, in the year 1874, I was twenty-six years old, I was obliged to go substitute or let the people of Bridgewater wander about in darkness. Having been exposed to a spell of very bad weather, I was stricken down with a terrible attack of rheumatism, which completely disabled me, so that for weeks could not move my arms nor do my work. Although I was everything that was recommended to me to get rid of the ailment, I have ever since been a martyr to it, and for well over a time have been unable to attend to my duties. In the last twelve years I have been so afflicted that my words can express nothing to regard my case as chronic and altogether hopeless. When I was recently taken down again by a fearful attack of my old enemy—rheumatism—and one of our lady citizens sent me part of a bottle of a remedy which she said was the shot for that fearful disease, as she had found out from personal experience, I felt it hardly worth while crying the article. I was persuaded, however, to make a few applications, and, to my astonishment and delight, the pains and swelling went away. I only say, I have been cured of the disease, and I have since, and to my work as well as ever I could in my life. I have not felt well in twelve years, and I do not mind saying that I, and those who knew of my frequent disabled condition, regard St. Jacobs Oil, which is the thing that I used, as the best remedy in the world. It made me happy, and I know of several who have used it since I used it, and all have found it wonderfully effective in driving away pain. I am so delighted with the results of my cure, that I will send you a testimonial. Our poster, desirous of ascertaining whether others had experienced like results from the use of this medicine, discovery, about which so much is now being said and written, called upon Mr. Hickman, the well-known chemist and wholesale druggist, Eastover, Bridgewater, and questioned him on the subject. Mr. Hickman stated that while it was contrary to his custom to form his opinion on such matters for publication, he would not fully make an exception in this case, as such a large number of people were so afflicted with this ailment, and he thought it his immediate notice that he regarded it as a duty to the public to express his confidence in the efficacy of the article. And other cases he referred to that of the wife of a well-known surgeon, whose experience with the Oil was so satisfactory that she could scarcely sound its praises too loudly. Its wonderful pain-curing properties and decided power to relieve cold rheumatism, had, Mr. Hickman said, rendered it the most popular among our people, and several requests for the Oil were forwarded them to the proprietors. A friend of mine, recently returned from Australia, says that his son has expended more than seven hundred pounds in his endeavour to obtain relief from severe rheumatic pains, but derived more benefits from a contents of one 2s. 6d. bottle of St. Jacobs Oil than from all other sources combined.



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Monday.  
The Delagoa Bay Railway.

In answer to Lord Rosebery, Lord Oxbow said the attention of the Government had been very seriously directed to the Delagoa Bay Railway, both as an inlet for trade between the South African Republic and as a competitor in connection with the trade of the Cape and Natal. It had been suggested that Her Majesty's Government should acquire the railway, but as the railway neither ran through British territory, nor from it nor to it, such a purchase would be perfectly unprecedented. It was a matter of importance to any one, it was of importance to the Cape and Natal Governments, and the proposal to purchase the railway was now under the consideration of the Cape Government. With reference to a differential rate against goods coming from Great Britain, there was a treaty with the Transvaal Government which placed goods coming from England on the same footing as goods coming from any other country.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Monday.  
The House met at three o'clock for the first time under the new rule of procedure which was passed the previous Friday night.

## Supplementary Estimates.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Estimates for the Civil Service. On the vote for £19,000 for the National Education Buildings, Ireland, Lord R. C. C. Campbell complained of the ill-considered and highly objectionable treatment of financial matters by the Treasury, and asked why the Treasury had allowed the works would have been absolutely stopped, and the consent of the Treasury was given to the extra expenditure because of the inconvenience and hardship which would have followed. After some discussion the vote was agreed to. A long discussion, on the administration of the Criminals Act was carried on by the Irish members on the subject of £6,500 in respect of the salaries of assistant magistrates and court officials in Ireland. The Committee divided at a quarter to twelve o'clock, and at five minutes to twelve the result was declared, the vote being carried by a majority of 74. The next vote, which was for the National Gallery, was proceeded with. Mr. CAVENDISH BENTINCK and Mr. JACKSON having briefly addressed the House, Sir G. CAMPBELL rose at a minute before midnight, amid cries of "Oh" and "Time," and when the cries subsided, Mr. COURTNEY put the question, and the vote was carried without opposition. The remaining orders were disposed of, and the House SECRETARY introduced a bill in reference to the liability of employers for injuries to workmen.

## HOUSE OF LORDS--Tuesday.

Baron Knutsford (Sir H. T. Holland) was introduced with the usual formalities, and took the oath and subscribed the roll of Parliament on his elevation to the peerage.

## The Sweating System.

The Earl of DUNHAY called attention to the report of the labour correspondent of the Board of Trade on the "sweating" system at the East-end of London, and pointed out that the workers in certain trades were reduced by this system to a condition of white slavery. Not only did the sweaters exact long hours and pay small wages, but the work was done under conditions which were in the highest degree filthy and insanitary. The strongest man or woman was killed out in the course of eight or nine years, and the vacancies thus created in the ranks of British workers were filled up by foreign immigrants. But that was not the worst of it. The sweaters were not content with this. They wanted to see further degradation. They wanted to see the existing law should be made more effective by a reform of the Factory and Workshop Acts. The noble earl concluded by moving the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the sweating system at the East-end. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY observed that there were classes below that of the well-to-do working people who were sunk in abject misery, and it was only right that a systematic inquiry should be made into their real condition, with a view to the application of remedies. The Earl of Oxbow reminded the lords that inspectors under the Factory Acts had no power to visit workshops in which only grown men and women were employed, and it was rather to the action of the local authorities under the Public Health Acts that they must look for whatever remedies could be applied to the sweating system. He should deprecate any application of the Factory Acts to the case of grown men, but on the part of the Government he did not oppose the motion, limited as it was in its terms. The motion was then agreed to, and their lordships rose at half past six o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS--Tuesday.

## The Grand Junction Water Bill.

A long discussion arose on the motion for the second reading of this bill. Mr. DIXON HARRIS moved the rejection of the bill, the effect of which would be to reduce the water in the river in summer to nearly one-sixth of its present flow. Mr. LABOUCHERE seconded the motion. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL maintained that the usual course should be followed, which was to send the bill to be examined by a Committee of the House. Mr. ERICSSON and Mr. COURTNEY recommended the House to read the bill a second time and refer it to a Select Committee. On a division the bill was rejected by 183 to 104.

## Committees on the Estimates.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, replying to Mr. J. ELLIS, said the Government intended to appoint three Select Committees on the Estimates, one for the Navy, one for the Army, and one for the Post Office and Revenue departments, and another Committee to see what modification could be made in the manner in which the estimates were presented to the House, and how far a fuller control could be established over the expenditure of the country.

## Rules of Procedure.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the rule of procedure. Mr. W. H. SMITH moved a rule that questions for the closure of the debate should be decided in the affirmative if, when a division is taken, it appears by the numbers declared from the chair that not less than one hundred members voted in the majority in support of the motion. After considerable discussion, the rule was agreed to by a majority of 256 to 134. The next rule, providing for the suspension of the member for disorderly conduct, and the exclusion of the member from the precincts of the House during his suspension, was also agreed to. The rule empowering the Speaker to order a member who persists in irreverence or seditious repetition to discontinue his speech was, on a division, carried by 179 to 94. The rule providing that the Speaker or chairman may decline to put motions for adjournment or to report progress, if he thinks they are made in abuse of the rules of the House, was, after some discussion, agreed to. The rules as to the order of Government business, the going into Committee without a division, and the limiting of amendments on the report stage of a bill, were agreed to. The debate on the rule providing for the taking of divisions by members being called upon to rise in their places was adjourned.

## COMMONS--Wednesday.

## The Procedure Rules.

The discussion on the ninth rule of procedure was resumed and occupied more than half of the

sitting. As finally adopted, it provides that the Speaker or chairman, on taking a vote before calling on members to rise in their places, shall allow two minutes to elapse by the sundial; that he shall only call upon them to rise, if, in his opinion, the division is frivolous and vexatiously claimed; that if there is no division he shall declare the number of the minority who have challenged the decision, and that the names of that minority shall be taken down in the House, and printed in the division list. When the rule in the amended form was put to the House a division took place, and it was carried by 236 to 93. The tenth rule, discontinuing the stages of Committee and report on the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was agreed to. The eleventh rule was passed. It provides that after Whitehall, public bills, other than Government bills, shall be so arranged on the order book as to give priority to those that are most advanced. The twelfth rule, repealing the standing orders of the 9th and 30th April, 1872, concerning bills relating to religion and trade, was agreed to. The thirteenth rule, providing for the re-establishment of Standing Committees for the consideration of bills relating to law, trade, shipping, and manufactures, was under discussion when the business was suspended.

## HOUSE OF LORDS--Thursday.

## The Railway and Canal Traffic Bill.

Lord STANLEY OF PRESTON moved the second reading of this bill, which, he said, was substantially the same as the bill which was read a third time in their lordships' House last session. It had been suggested that the bill should be introduced this session in the House of Commons, but it was thought advisable on various grounds that the bill should be reintroduced into their lordships' House. Last session he reserved to the Government the right to adopt any amendments which might be proposed, and on this occasion he repeated that reservation. The Earl of JESSEY moved that no general measure dealing with railway traffic can be considered satisfactory which does not prohibit preferential rates in favour of foreign imports. He read in support of the bill for legislation on the question, but objected to the 25th clause of the bill, which permitted preferential charges in breach of the provisions of the Act of 1857, prohibiting any railway company from making undue preferential charges in favour of any person or company or in favour of any particular class of traffic. Lord BRADSTREET opposed the amendment on the ground that it would not be for the good of the community that such a proposition should be agreed to. The railway companies did not make preferential rates out of any love for the foreign owners of cattle, but simply because they could not get any higher rates. The Earl of DUNHAY supported the amendment. The effect of the preferential rates was to put money into the pockets of the foreign exporter at the expense of the home producer, who, in many cases, owing to the high local rates, was unable to get his produce to the market at all. Lord FORBES also supported the amendment. The Marquis of SALISBURY pointed out the inconvenience of the amendment before the House, and said, if carried, legislation on the subject would be delayed for a whole year. After further discussion the House divided:—

For the amendment.....	45
Against.....	72
Majority.....	27

The bill was read a second time.

## The Peabody Trust.

In answer to Lord Cross, Lord DEAN stated that the Peabody trustees had spent £1,200,000. They had 11,331 rooms, and 5,900 separate dwellings inhabited by 20,279 persons. The average wages of the families occupying the houses was 28s. per week, and the trustees spent the whole of their funds and had borrowed between £200,000 and £400,000 more. The House adjourned at thirty-five minutes past six.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS--Thursday.

## The Adulteration of Beer.

Mr. O. V. MORAN asked the number of publicans during the year 1887 who had been summoned before a magistrate and fined for the adulteration of malt liquor, and the number of publicans who had paid the full penalty of £50 without having to appear before a magistrate, and to which no publicity is attached. Mr. MORAN said that during the year 1887 publicans had been fined for the dilution and adulteration of beer, and in thirty-one cases the fines had been paid to avoid going into court.

## Foreign Beef and the Mercantile Marks Act.

Mr. CHARLES GRAY asked whether offering for sale and ticketing foreign goods as British was an infringement of the Mercantile Marks Act under Clause 3 (b) relating to "the country in which any goods are produced." Sir M. HICKS-BALE said it was an offence under the Act to apply a false trade description to any goods, either directly or indirectly as to the place where goods were made or produced. The term "goods" included in anything which was the subject of trade. (Cheers.)

## Crossing Sweepers.

In answer to Mr. PICKERSGILL, Mr. MATTHEWS said that a vestry and district board had power under the Metropolitan Management Act to appoint a paid crossing sweeper, but he was not aware that they acted on it. The instructions to the police were that crossing sweepers were not to be interfered with if they did not annoy passengers by begging.

## The New Member for Deptford.

Mr. DARLING, who was escorted to the table by Sir S. Northcote and Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald, took the oath and his seat for Deptford, amid loud Conservative cheers and the silence of the Opposition.

## Mr. Chamberlain's Mission.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates. On the vote of £6,500 for special missions abroad, Mr. LABOUCHERE drew attention to Mr. Chamberlain's mission, and opposed the vote on the ground, not only that the mission was unnecessary, because he maintained the negotiations could have been carried out by our Minister at Washington, but also that it was much too expensive. He moved the reduction of the vote by the cost of the mission. Sir J. FARRER said that those who were acquainted with the usual expenses of special missions would consider the sum now asked for as very moderate. No previous special mission of a like magnitude had been ever covered by a like sum. The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Chamberlain) had stipulated that the expenses of the mission should be kept within the narrowest limits. The question which the mission had decided was had only recently threatened complication, and the Government had thought it especially a case in which a special effort should be made to satisfy the difficulties which had arisen to a satisfactory termination. If there was any delay or difficulty in obtaining the necessary ratification, the mode of remedy had been arranged by which the terms of the treaty would come into operation at once and remain so for two years, during which it was to be hoped it would be ratified. Mr. GLADSTONE said there could be no doubt that when the Government selected Mr. Chamberlain as their negotiator with the United States they selected a man of very eminent abilities and competency to deal with the particular case; and, secondly, that when Mr. Chamberlain accepted that mission he did what the country recognised as an act of public duty and public spirit. He bore his testimony to the conduct of the Government in sending out a special mission on this occasion, for he believed unquestionably, and without the smallest disparage-

ment of the abilities and experience of Sir Sackville West, that it was in the power of a special envoy to do more, and to represent this country with greater efficacy and special authority than could have been done by the unaided efforts of Sir S. West. (Ministerial cheers.) He regretted that he could not support the proposal to reduce the cost of Mr. W. H. SMITH's mission, but their deep acknowledgments to Mr. Chamberlain for bringing to a satisfactory and peaceful conclusion a dispute which might have been attended with serious difficulties. Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said Mr. Gladstone's remarks upon Mr. Chamberlain was another instance of his magnanimity to one of his worst and bitterest opponents; and he should be glad if it had any chance of being reciprocated. (Cheers.) He would condemn the selection of Mr. Chamberlain as a diplomatist in an absolutely grotesque. On a division the reduction of the vote was rejected by 314 against 8, and the announcement of the numbers was received with laughter and cheers. The vote was agreed to.

## Trafalgar-square.

Sir CHARLES RUSSELL moved a resolution for an inquiry into the conditions of holding public meetings in Trafalgar-square. He contended that Trafalgar-square was not within the Royal Parks Act of 1832, was not within the jurisdiction of the various Acts of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and it was entirely without legal regulation in the matter of public meetings of any kind whatever. Further, for the last forty years the people of the metropolis had been accustomed to meet for the discussion of their grievances without interruption, without challenge as to the legality of their actions, and with the admission of responsible members of the executive Government of the day that they were within their legal right so long as those they held were orderly meetings. And now, by reason of the act of the head of the police force, there was a perpetual mandate forbidding the use of Trafalgar-square for all meetings whatever. He quoted Acts of Parliament and precedents in support of his view that long usage had given the public a right to meet in Trafalgar-square, and he condemned the action of the Government in doing anything to restrict the public meeting. Mr. MATTHEWS said that the Government had done anything to impair the right of public meeting. No right of public meeting in Trafalgar-square existed in law or in fact. Trafalgar-square was the property of the Crown, and was made out of the King's Meads, to which subsequent additions had been made. He took his stand upon the Act of 1844, which vested it in the Crown. Even if it were a thoroughfare, he contended that the right of public meeting did not exist in a street or public thoroughfare. In October, he received many complaints from tradespeople and public bodies, who implored his protection, and stated that the scenes in Trafalgar-square were a source of daily loss to them. Those who organized these meetings might be persons perfectly respectable and entitled to hold meetings; but they could not help in a town like London the gathering of the dangerous classes; and after describing how the latter classes acted in Trafalgar-square, he asked, was the right of the public to meet in Trafalgar-square a public discussion advanced by all these classes a source of disorder? (Cheers.) Over 100 criminal cases arose out of the scenes in Trafalgar-square, and 112 policemen were injured. The Government could not regard the motion as a vote of censure, and as such they asked the House to meet it with a direct negative. The debate was continued by Mr. R. T. BIRD, Mr. CHARLES HALL, Mr. GEORGE HOWELL, Mr. BURDET-COUTTS, and Mr. BRADLAUGH. At midnight the debate was adjourned.

DEATH FROM STARVATION AT  
HAMPTON.

Dr. G. DANFORD Thomas held an inquest at Hampton, Workhouse, touching the death of William Hill, aged 43, a shorthand writer, who died under distressing circumstances. William Hill, son of the deceased, residing at 15, Aldershot-road, Kilburn, said the deceased used to be a shorthand writer at the office of Mr. Tilley, solicitor, but through his intemperate habits he lost his situation three months ago. His mother and sister then were obliged to enter the workhouse. His father was in great distress, and, being unable to pay his rent, he was evicted from his house. He was in the habit of sleeping in this house. He would lie down on the floor, and he would be found by one of the rooms. A notebook and three pence were found in his possession. The body was very badly nourished. The stomach was destitute of food. The Coroner (to the doctor): What did he die of? Dr. GROSVENOR: Starvation, decidedly. He had not had any food for some time. He had returned from a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from exhaustion from want of food and nourishment, and that his death was accelerated by intemperance and self-neglect.

## ROBBING THE POOR AND HUNGRY.

At the Greenwich Police Court, a well-dressed young man, named William Peter Franks, aged 22, clerk of the New Cross Inn, New Cross-road, was charged with obtaining 2s. 6d. from the Rev. James White, head master of the Royal Naval School, New Cross, and other charitable contributions, under false pretences. Mr. White said that at the latter end of January the prisoner called at his home and asked for a subscription towards "robin" dinners, and he gave him 2s. 6d. The prisoner mentioned the names of the Rev. W. Stone and the Rev. S. A. Selwyn, and the witness, finding that the collection was not genuine, communicated with the clergyman named, and also with Mr. Howarth, chairman of the local "robin" committee. Mr. William Howarth, of King George-street, Greenwich, said that at the end of 1887 the prisoner asked for permission to give concerts for the fund, which was accorded, and his name was added to the committee. He gave 2s. 6d. for the first and 3s. 10s. for the second. On each occasion over £3 was collected in the room. The prisoner was asked for the balance-sheets, but did not furnish them. The proceeds of the concert were considered very inadequate, and in consequence witness and other members spoke to the prisoner, from whom they could get no satisfactory explanation, and a notice was issued to the effect that he was not authorized to collect for the fund. The prisoner had raised over no money collected. During the present winter he had received 4,150 children with breakfasts and dinners. Mr. Charles Von Berger, of 62, Leaside, High-road, deposed to giving the prisoner 5s. for the fund, which Mr. Howarth said he had not received. Sergeant Francis deposed to the arrest of the prisoner, who admitted that he had received money to the amount of about £17, which he said he intended to hand over to the committee when he had collected a few more amounts. He could get the money within twenty-four hours. Mr. Montagu Williams: You are about as contemptible a crime as any that can come before a magistrate or any other tribunal, because you rob the poor and the hungry, and I have only to regret that I have not the power to have only to regret that I have not the power to punish you on the spot. Here is an excellent contribution that has given dinners to 4,000 children. In the districts that is in every corner of this great metropolis, you—a young man in health and strength, able to earn a honest living with common industry, if you like to do so—collect £17 and put it in your own pocket, and spend it upon your own miserable self. You are to go to prison for three months' hard labour as a rogue and vagabond.

250.—Trafalgar-square.—Illustrated Gleaner. (250 pages) "How to Open Respectably from 250." post 1/6. H. H. H. and Co., 107, 111, Euston-road, London, W. (Advt.)

## A CITY CLERK'S MARRIAGE.

The action of *Symons v. Symons*, reported in the *People's Paper*, is now before Justice. By the action Mrs. Symons sought to set aside a settlement which her late husband had made of certain leaseholds in favour of his mother, brother, and sister, Mrs. Symons alleged that at the time he made the settlement her husband was suffering from mental incapacity through drink. From the statement made by counsel, the court was informed that Mrs. Symons, who was a widow, in possession of £200 a year from freeholds and £800 from leaseholds, became acquainted with, and subsequently married, a clerk with £100 a year living at East Dulwich, named William Symons. At the marriage she settled her property, vesting it in trustees, taking herself a life interest in the freeholds, and giving her husband a life interest in the leaseholds, and giving him the fee of the freeholds in case of her death. She, according to her own evidence, knew before she married him that he was addicted to drink, but she nevertheless married him, and after the marriage induced him to give up his situation. The marriage was not a happy one, and often over the most trivial matters there were quarrels between the parties. There were some short periods of separation between husband and wife, during one of which he visited his friends at Fernington, North Devon, where his mother kept the New Inn. It was not very long before his death, in August, 1886, which occurred through an accident in a tramcar when he was under the influence of liquor, that he made the settlement in question, and the evidence adduced by the wife during a three days' hearing of the case went to show that drink had completely incapacitated him for any business transactions while that of the defendant's was as strongly advanced, that although he might be called an habitual drunkard, he could converse on, and discuss, all ordinary subjects of interest and general topics. On Wednesday morning, at the sitting of the court, Mr. CRUMP, Q.C., for the plaintiff, and Mr. BOMER, Q.C., for the defendant, informed Mr. Justice Chitty that the case had been settled, the terms of the settlement to be drawn up. The parties had agreed to a partition of the leaseholds, the costs to be taken out of the estate. Some £250 of the settlement was already in the hands of the plaintiff, and the defendant, liberty was given to go to the judge in chambers to settle it.

## REMARKABLE LUNACY CASE.

A Middlesex special jury, empanelled by Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell, sat at the Royal Courts of Justice this week, under Master Nicholson, to inquire into the alleged lunacy of Francis John Poor Bailwood, of No. 9, Pierpoint-street, Bath. The petition of lunacy was presented by the Brothers (Mr. Thomas Henry Bailwood, of Horshington, Somerset, and Captain Arthur Churchhill, of the Royal Artillery), the present inquiry being ordered by the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Lumley Smith, with whom was Mr. Fullerton, appeared in support of the petition, and the alleged lunatic did not appear by counsel. Mr. Lumley Smith, in opening the case, said the proceedings were initiated in the district of Bath, but were removed to London at the instance of Mr. Bailwood, who, however, did not now appear. Mr. Bailwood was about 41 years of age. He was the son of a country gentleman, and was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford. He was formerly possessed of good means, but was now in such a deplorable condition as to necessitate the present inquiry. Up till 1881 he lived with his brother at Horshington, in Somerset, and afterwards went to reside at Templecombe, in the same county. For the last two or three years he had been living at Birmingham, Bath, and other places, in lodgings, but never residing at any one place long, because, probably, he did not seem a desirable tenant. His life had of late been a restless one. He was in the habit of getting up at about five o'clock in the afternoon, when he would have breakfast. Then he would go to a drive in a day, and after his return would have his dinner at about one or two o'clock in the morning, finally going to bed at about six o'clock in the morning. This, said the counsel, might be mere eccentricity, but it was for the jury to say whether it was not something more than this. With regard to the days which he usually kept waiting for an hour at the door—he would enter them furiously, and with a good deal of care and watchfulness. He took meals of an extraordinary character. He took a good deal of ice. He would send the food down to the food with ice, and then have more ice. His powers of eating and drinking did not seem to be those of an ordinary reasonable person. He was not, however, in any way addicted to drink, although he was not a teetotaler. He took large quantities of mineral water, but none of his extravagances could be put down to strong drink. His general habits were also dirty, and appeared to be consistent with the fact that he was insane. He wandered about with his dress disarranged and in a state of partial nudity. He had a dangerous character of hunting matches and throwing stones carelessly on the floor. On one occasion he lighted a newspaper and threw it on the carpet, setting fire to it. He left his money about, and was careless of his letters. On one occasion he tried to light the gas with an unopened envelope, which contained two £5 notes. His dividend warrants also had remained unclaimed. In 1886 he commenced sending a series of post-cards. He had previously got so far as to bring an action against Mr. Budd, physician and surgeon, of Bath. The case was heard at the assizes. The proceedings were turned out so ridiculous that the whole thing was laughed out of court. Two learned counsel went on to detail other strange acts committed by Mr. Bailwood, and several witnesses having been called, the jury came to the conclusion that Mr. Bailwood was insane, and that the statements contained in the petition of his brothers had been upheld.

## CAPTURE OF AN ALLEGED SMASHER.

At the Barnet Police Court, Mr. H. E. C. Stoughton in the chair, John William Walker, of Bawtry-road, Whetstone, was charged with having uttered counterfeit coin. The evidence of Christina Shaw, daughter of the landlord of the York Arms, Whetstone, was to the effect that on the 10th ult. the prisoner came to the house and was served with a pint of ale, for which he paid with a farthing. Her father subsequently found that the farthing was bad. Having found out where the prisoner resided, he went to him and got good money for the beer, retaining the farthing, which was afterwards handed to the police. Mrs. Sarah Grimsey, keeper of a small shop at Friern Barnet, gave evidence to the effect that on the 25th of February the prisoner came to her shop and purchased some bacon, paying with a shilling. A few minutes afterwards he sent a child for a loaf, and the child also tendered a shilling in payment. The coin looked doubtful, and on examination proved to be bad. The shilling was then found to be counterfeit. The first shilling was also counterfeit. She went to the residence of the prisoner, and under threat of giving him in charge obtained good money from him. Mrs. Lydia Sharp, another shopkeeper in the neighbourhood, and Sydney Smith, potman at the Railway Hotel, New Southgate, gave evidence as to similar attempts on the part of the prisoner to pass base money at their respective establishments. Sergeant Goodship, 33 B, proved the arrest of the prisoner, and a witness named Holmes gave evidence as to the finding of eight counterfeit shillings close to the spot where Walker was apprehended. Prisoner: as remanded in custody.

## A HARD FIGHT.

Sarah Ann Davis, 23, married, who carried a baby in her arms and was accompanied by another child about 1 year old, was placed in the dock, at Southwark Police Court, charged, before Mr. Slade, with beginning—Police-constable Ireland, 62 M, having given evidence in support of the charge, the prisoner said she was not begging, she was selling pins, to get food for her children. The constable stated that after taking her into custody she produced some packets of pins, but she had not been offering them for sale when he first saw her. He had seen her receive alms from several passers-by in the London-road. Her husband was at present in prison for begging. The woman said her husband had not been begging at all, they went out together hawking, for which her husband had a licence. The Magistrate: Why don't you go to the workhouse?—Mrs. Davis: I've got a little home of my own, sir, and I don't want to break it up while my husband is away. Magistrate: What is your husband by trade?—Prisoner: He is a carpenter, but can't get any work at his trade. He is willing to do any work he can get. Mr. Price, Davis's landlord, stepped forward and informed the magistrate that the woman had been lodging at his house, 23, Tabard-street, with her husband, for the last eleven months, and they appeared to be very quiet, respectable people. They occupied one room, for which they paid 2s. 6d. per week. Mr. Nairs (chief clerk): Do they owe any rent?—Witness: They are only two weeks in arrears. Mr. Nairs: You do not intend to turn them out?—Witness: No, sir. I would not do that for the sake of the little children. Mrs. Davis: I shall order you to receive some bread and coal tickets from the poor-law fund, and you had better see the relieving officer and get some outdoor relief. You are now discharged, and do not beg again or you will be thrown into trouble. Prisoner thanked his worship for his goodness, and left the dock amidst some slight applause from the court.

## "AMOURS AND ENTANGLEMENTS."

An attempt at murder is reported from the Galapark district of Galahast. A man named Andrew Wood, a weaver, residing in Tread-place, had made arrangements for marriage with Barbara Brown, living in Scott-street, and the ceremony was fixed for the 9th inst. The man seems to have had amours and entanglements with other females. On Wednesday he bought a six-chambered revolver and ammunition; he afterwards was seen drinking and in an excited state. In the evening the woman Brown was cleaning a house in Galapark-road, which was to be occupied by the parties after the marriage. When Wood entered and shot her in the back of the head. She fell, but realising the danger of her position she succeeded in rising and was able to run to her father's house, followed by Wood, revolver in hand. The woman received prompt medical aid and the bullet was extracted, but her condition is critical, and her depositions have been taken. Wood was apprehended and was on Thursday remitted from the borough police court to the sheriff.

## LIVERPOOL LICENSED VICTUALLERS

## AND MR. JUSTICE GRANTHAM.

The Liverpool Licensed Victuallers' Association on Thursday passed a resolution emphatically and indignantly protesting against the language used by Mr. Justice Granttham with reference to their trade in the course of trial at the assizes, when he described publicans as living upon the fat of the land at the expense of the misery, crime, and degradation of their customers. They considered his strictures wholly unmerited, and his statements a slander upon a respectable body of tradesmen.

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## 115 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

## As Sir John Kirk was entering the Sevenoaks railway station on Saturday morning, to travel by train to London, he fell down, in consequence of the slippery state of the path, and broke his leg.



## "THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Lord Randolph Churchill will, at an early date, deliver an address at the Agricultural Hall.

Boston's gilded dome is now in danger of tumbling down upon the Legislature in session.

The Rev. Dr. Talmage describes as the ideal newspaper "one that prints vice in nonpartisan and virtue in long primer."

Trial by jury will soon be an accomplished fact in Spain. The bill establishing it has passed the Senate.

It is stated that church music in New York employs not far from 2,000 organists and vocalists, whose annual salaries amount to \$250,000.

It is the intention of the Society of Arts to hold a conference in May on the subject of canals and inland navigation.

A warehouseman living at Hackney, who is only nineteen years old, is said to have made no less than five attempts to commit suicide.

For having stolen £3 from his employers, a firm of coal merchants, George Lawrence, a clerk, was sentenced at the Mansion House Police Court to four months' imprisonment.

A bill for the construction in Eastern Prussia of several railways of strategic importance will be submitted to the German Reichstag before the close of the present session.

At the Greenwich Police Court, Joseph Haines, an ex-constable of the metropolitan police, pleaded guilty to four charges of larceny, and was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

A singular case of wife murder has recently been heard at Honan. The guilty wife is only fifteen years of age, her paramour but twenty-two, and the murdered husband was only fourteen.

A London correspondent declares that metropolitan society is full of rumours of women stricken down by the deadly cold which prevailed during the drawing-room.

There are lace curtains in the parlours of Robert Garrett's million-dollar Baltimore mansion which cost \$200 a yard. Some of the carpets on the floors are actually worth their weight in gold.

Mr. Moody, the Evangelist, says that there has never been a cancer among the Hebrews, and suggests that their freedom from this scourge may be due to their abstinence from pork.

Parisian society is, of course, to be congratulated. The Shah intends to visit the International Exhibition to be held in the French capital in 1889, travelling via Russia and Germany.

The Piccadilly Galleries were opened on Sunday by the Sunday Society with the exhibition of the Institute of Painters in Oil Colours. The galleries were open from three to five, and upwards of 1,024 visitors passed the turnstiles.

Thomas Lovatt, a well-known cab proprietor, of Wolstanton, on Wednesday placed a revolver in his mouth and discharged two of the chambers. One bullet passed through his head and lodged in the ceiling of his apartment.

The negotiations for the conclusion of a treaty of Commerce between Italy and Switzerland have not yet to any result. The two States, however, by a tacit understanding will grant each other the most favoured nation treatment for the present.

Colonel Duncan, M.P., gave an account of his experiences in foreign lands to the ladies of the Church of England Home and Club for Homeless Working Boys, at the Mission-room, Sardinia-street, Drury-lane, on Wednesday night.

A Cape Town telegram states officially in reference to Lord Oso's recent declaration in the House of Lords that the Cape Government has never entered into the idea of purchasing the Delagoa Bay.

A terrible accident has occurred at Vallejo, California. The boiler of the ferry-boat exploded, with the result that of the fifty persons on board, twenty were killed and many others wounded. The vessel itself was burnt.

On Mr. Chamberlain's return from America a meeting of the Liberal-Unionist party will, so it is said, be held at Devonshire House. The object of the gathering is to consider the proposed Government legislation.

A county of Birmingham is to be created under the new Local Government Bill. The town will continue to enjoy all the municipal privileges it has possessed hitherto, and in addition all the rights pertaining to a county.

A despatch from Hanoi announces the destruction by fire of the artisans' quarter of that place, ten natives and one European being burnt to death. The quarter destroyed includes the French stores for public works, and 300 houses in all were burned.

Mr. Justice Hawkins has given judgment in the action of the Faure Electric Accumulator Company against Mr. Philpott, in which £70,459 was claimed. He said defendant had answered the claim for part of the interest, but not for the calls, and gave judgment for £49,268.

Even America is failing to honour Valentine's Day. "Five years ago," says the general superintendent of the New York Post Office, "Valentine's Day was something like Christmas to the Post Office employees, but now they have little extra work in handling the mail matter."

According to native journals, Japan can boast of a phenomenal giantess. Though only twelve years and five months of age, she is said to stand eight feet high and to weigh over 270 lbs. Her hands measure over nine inches in length and her foot fifteen inches.

The committee of the Ialington Jubilee Fund have paid over a further sum of £2,000 (making £4,000 altogether) to the new building fund of the Great Northern Central Hospital. The new hospital, which is in the Holloway-road, is shortly about to be opened.

Walter Rencou, 33, described as a tailor, and giving an address at a common lodging-house in Clerkenwell-road, was charged on remand at Highgate Police Court, with breaking and entering the Wesleyan Chapel, Ballard's-lane, Finchley, by means of a skeleton key, supposed for the purpose of committing a felony. He was fully committed for trial at the Middlesex Sessions.

The mayor of Bristol has presented to Mr. Headley Hill, a medical student at the General Hospital, the Stanhope gold medal of the Royal Humane Society for the most gallant and meritorious rescue of the year. Leaving into the boat at Clifton Bridge Station, he, under most difficult circumstances, rescued a young girl from drowning.

Eliza Goodman and her son, William Goodman, were remanded at the Clerkenwell Police Court on the charge of having stolen a chest of drawers, the property of a furrier, residing in Canonbury-street, Islington. In the course of an evasive defence the prosecutor's property was removed into the street, and the roughs of the surrounding neighbourhood carried away a large quantity of furs and furniture.

At Bradford a master dyer, named Peter Kershaw—who is said to have occupied a leading position in the town—was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for stealing several thousand pounds weight of wool, the property of local manufacturers who sent it to be dyed. George Row and Ephraim Bottery, Bradford, wool merchants, were each sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour for receiving the wool.

In the Mater Misericordie Hospital, Dublin, Mrs. Curtis, aged 50, died of hydrophobia. She had been bitten six weeks ago by a stray dog that followed her home and flew at her, seizing her by the hip while she was eating. Last week she felt pain in the wound and was removed to the hospital, where the terrible symptoms of hydrophobia became intensified, and she died in great agony.

A terrible love tragedy is reported from Berlin, a town in Wisconsin. J. W. Hacker, a young fellow of 19, fell in love at Ball Plain, Iowa, with Nattie Starke, a young girl of 18. The marriage was opposed by the girl's parents, and she was sent to visit relatives in Berlin. Hacker learned of her whereabouts, and followed. He sat

once proceeded to the house, shot her dead, and then committed suicide.

The returns of Irish emigration show that last year the number of persons who left Ireland was 19,000 more than in the preceding year.

The Great Western Railway Company are introducing the use of "hunting poles" in order to lessen the risks incidental to porters while engaged in coupling railway carriages.

The Mayor of Manchester has received a letter from the Lord Mayor of London asking his assistance towards a fund for a Waterloo memorial at the new cemetery at Brussels.

Nearly 55,000 votes were recorded for General Boulanger in the bye elections on Sunday, though he is by law ineligible for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Pontypriid magistrates have no sympathy with prize-fighters. Two men, named Jones and Philipot, have been heavily fined for indulging in that practice.

At the Old Bailey on Thursday, Henry William Gammon, for embezzling money of the Ealing Local Board, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

At a banquet at Soho given in honour of his birthday, Prince Ferdinand appealed to those present to support him by their fidelity and patriotism.

Sir George Elliott, M.P., presided at the anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday evening. Subscriptions were announced to the amount of over £15,000.

At the Middlesex Sheriff's Court on Thursday, a jury awarded Mr. Edward Tyler £1,020 as compensation for certain property taken by the London School Board for the purposes of their work in Finsbury.

Owing to the ice on the Cam and Ouse the Cambridge University crew came to Putney on Monday. The Dark Blues commenced their practice on the Thames in the neighbourhood of Marlow and Cookham the same day.

On Thursday the Eton College boating season was commenced with the usual procession of eight-oared boats upon the Thames, the crews rowing from the rafts up the river and back to Windsor Bridge.

The show of shire horses has been held at the Agricultural Hall during the week. The Elsenham Challenge Cup, of the value of 100 guineas, for the best animal in the show, was awarded to Lord Wantage's Prince William.

A serious strike has occurred of the engineers and firemen on one of the principal railways in the Western States of America. Both the freight and passenger traffic over 5,500 miles of line are paralysed.

The Bishop of Manchester says that the choice between cremation and interment involves nothing further than public feeling and sentiment. He is quite sure that it has no connection with Christian doctrine, and he trusts this will not be dragged into the argument.

A special court of the governors of the Hospital for Sick Children was presided over on Wednesday evening by Lord Aberdeen for the purpose of sanctioning the commencement of the construction of a new wing when the building fund amounted to £15,000.

Mrs. Margaret Stevenson, the wife of a commercial traveller, was returning from King'sland to her home at Wood Green, when she was taken ill. A doctor ordered her to go back to her sister at King'sland. She got in a tramcar for that purpose, but died suddenly on the way.

On Tuesday Lord Chief Justice Coleridge sentenced Thomas Daly, a married man, aged 34 years, to seven years' penal servitude for indecently assaulting Sarah Ann Harris, aged 5 years, at Newport. The judge, in sentencing the prisoner, said he hoped his indignation would not carry him beyond the justice of the case.

Terence Rice, who was sentenced to death in 1872, along with Slane, Hayes, and Beasley, for the murder of Henry Waine, at Spennymoor, Durham, but whose sentence was afterwards commuted, has been released with a free pardon. Slane and Hayes were executed, and Beasley, whose sentence was also commuted, obtained his discharge about three weeks ago.

Mr. R. Goldfinch, while walking along the sea coast between Whitstable and Herne Bay, in the neighbourhood of Swalecliffe, discovered what proved to be the tomb of a hairy northern elephant. In length the fossil is 5 ft. 11 in. along the curve, and its circumference at the thicker end is about 17 in., from which it tapers down to about 7 in.

Mr. John Bright has written accepting the position of president of the Glasgow Liberal Unionist Students' Club, and expressing the hope that the association may spread opinions adverse to the wild schemes of the Liberal and Parnellites. The early future of our country is with our young men, and he hopes that they may study the great question before the country and judge it wisely.

A number of persons have been summoned at Dorchester for refusing to pay their proportion to a special rate levied to defray certain expenses incurred in decorating the town, &c., on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Dorchester during the Bath and West of England Society's show last June. The magistrates decided that the rate was perfectly legal and made an order for payment.

A wedding ceremony has been unexpectedly interrupted at Wimborne. The banns had been duly published, the bride and bridegroom were in the church, but the clergyman got alarmed about certain rumours he had heard. It had been said that the bridegroom had told an acquaintance that he was a married man with two children. He insisted that it was not true. The clergyman, however, declined to proceed with the service without further inquiry.

An inquest was held at Liverpool on the body of a child, aged six weeks, son of an unmarried woman named Boodle. Evidence was given that a man with whom the woman was living told her he would marry her if she smothered the child. She then, it was alleged, neglected it, and it died from starvation. The jury found a verdict of wilful murder against the mother, and of being an accessory before the fact against the man. Prisoners were committed for trial.

The annual meeting of the proprietors and seat-holders of the Royal Albert Hall was held on Monday at the hall. Mr. H. C. Rothery presiding. The report of the council stated that the revenue for the letting of the hall, exclusive of seat rate, for the year amounted to £3,602, considerable expenditure had been incurred by various improvements, and as for the current year an outlay of £7,838—including £5,175 under the Royal Albert Hall Act—was estimated, the council recommended a seat rate of £2. After some discussion the report was adopted.

Judgment was given in the application to set aside an order for the service of a writ upon the Venezuelan plenipotentiary in France, against whom the New Chilli Gold Mining Company have brought an action to recover £280,000, the value of a gold mine of which the plaintiffs claim to have been defrauded. Without deciding the question of the exemption of an ambassador from a foreign country from which Mr. Baron Huddleston and Mr. Justice Manisty held different views their lordships decided against the plaintiff company, and set aside the order for the service of the writ.

Mr. J. S. Forbes presided over a stormy meeting of the Metropolitan District Railway shareholders, and reviewed the causes which had led to the serious financial condition of their property. In the speeches which followed the chairman was warmly attacked, and letters from Mr. Gladstone were read stating that he had no longer any confidence in the conduct of the company.

Mr. Forbes said his friends had entreated him to retire, but he would not sneak away, and after a committee of shareholders had been appointed he would tell them upon what terms they could retain his services. The chairman and directors were re-elected.

Mr. William Webster has brought over from Brussels a newly-invented harp, played by keys like a pianoforte.

At Evansville, Ind., last week, workmen engaged in tearing down an old house found in it a tin box containing \$4,000 in gold.

Sir Watkin Wynne, Bart., has been asked to preside over the gathering at Carnarvon on April 10th, when Lord Salisbury will speak.

An old woman, named Ann Vincer, has recently died at Mertham, East Kent, in what were supposed to be indigent circumstances. Over £200 was, however, found in her house.

Two delegates of the Salvation Army, an Englishman and a German, made their first "attack" on Berlin a day or two ago, without, however, creating much impression.

Oliver Johnson is the only survivor of the twelve men who met in Boston, January 6th, fifty-six years ago, and signed the constitution of the Anti-Slavery Society.

Mr. J. Barrett, solicitor, has been returned to the Court of Common Council for the Lime-street ward, in place of Colonel Wilkin, who has been elected alderman of the ward.

Three arcades on the left side of the Castle Capuano at Naples, formerly a royal palace, gave a prison, and now used as a court of justice, gave way suddenly on Tuesday. The damage done to the ancient building is serious. No one was hurt.

The widow of Head-constable Whelehan—who was murdered by the Moonlighters in their attack on Thomas Sexton's house—has received £1,250 compensation from the grand jury of Clare. This amount the ratepayers have to pay.

A number of sea-gulls, which had been evidently driven inland by the bitterly cold wind prevailing in the German Ocean, have been observed disporting themselves in the water above London Bridge this week.

During a funeral ceremony at Delhi, a balcony, in which a large number of people had assembled, came down with a crash, and seven men, six women, and three children were killed, and some thirty persons injured.

The German war vessel Albatross has arrived at the Cameroons with the deposed King Maelieto of Samoa on board. It is understood to be the intention of the German Government to keep him there in exile.

Some men-of-war's men who had overstayed their leave had a desperate conflict on the Hard, Portsmouth, with some of the police who attempted to arrest them. Some of their captors were severely injured by kicks and bites.

A Sheffield family have narrowly escaped suffocation. A man named Banks was aroused by the smell of something burning in his bedroom, which was full of smoke. He succeeded in carrying his invalid wife and child out of the place, and the fire was afterwards extinguished.

The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company, having obtained new engine-drivers and stokers in large numbers, have moved their suburban trains from Chicago, and also the mail train. The strike continues to have the effect of paralysing all other traffic.

In Sheppey, Kent, forty-five animals were slaughtered the other day to stamp out pleuropneumonia which had appeared. A whole dairy, numbering nearly seventy animals, is now exterminated. This is the largest outbreak of pleuropneumonia ever known in Kent.

A £20 fine, with £3 4s. costs, was the penalty inflicted by the Rochester magistrates on William Stubbs, of Phoenix Yard, Edward-street, Blackfriars, the owner of the barge Higham, for having "by his servants" thrown a quantity of rubbish into the Thames above the Middle Ditch buoy.

Certain large provincial towns are to be experimented on by the Postmaster-General, with a view to seeing if it will not be well to initiate a general system of holding over, from Sunday till Monday, all newspapers and circulars posted for delivery on the Sabbath.

Mr. J. Reid, head master of the Reckleford-street Board School, Yeovil, writes denying the statement which has been published that a pupil teacher has recently died and that another is ill from the effects of overwork in Yeovil board schools.

The master and wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company have declined to receive a deputation on the subject of the sweating system from the London Tailors' Society, but have promised to consider any statement that may be sent to them.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court two boys, who stated they were crossing-sweepers, were charged with begging, and the magistrate, in discharging them, suggested that the vestries would do well to consider the propriety of organising a "crossing-sweeper bridge," the members of which should wear uniform.

At Marylebone Police Court the Paddington Vestry applied for an order to compel the Middlesex Waterworks Company to reduce their charge for the water supplied for flushing the sewers and watering the streets, which is 9d. per 1,000 gallons. After some discussion the matter was postponed, with a view to an arrangement being come to.

Several Englishmen at Escourt, Natal, have been charged with arson under revolting circumstances. A quarrel with natives led, it is stated, to the accused surrounding and setting fire to a hut, forcing out three natives, one of whom was nearly roasted. Another they tied up and fogged. The accused have been committed for trial, bail being accepted.

Madame Tussaud and Sons have just acquired the camp bedstead of the Duke of Wellington, and it is on view in their galleries. The bedstead was invariably used by Wellington both at home and abroad, and he slept on it the night before Waterloo. It is simply made of plain wood, and has a rope mattress, being in every way characteristic of the ascetic soldier.

A meeting of the executive of the Liberal Unionist Association was held at the offices, Great George-street, on Thursday, to appoint a secretary in succession of Colonel Mordaunt, who has resigned. Lord Harrington presided. It is understood that Mr. Robert Hickerstick, formerly M.P. for the Newport Division of Shropshire, was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

At a meeting of the National Rifle Association, at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, it was announced that the Duke of Cambridge declined to sell to the association a portion of his estate at the rear of the butts at Wimbledon, and consequently, after this year's Wimbledon meeting, another place will have to be found for the annual shooting competitions.

A wardmote of the electors of Walbrook Ward was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday for the purpose of electing a gentleman to represent the ward in the Court of Common Council. In the room of the late Mr. Deputy Mayor, Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence, Bart., presided, and the only candidate was Mr. J. H. Batty, who was declared unanimously elected.

A man named Lewis has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment at the Lambeth Police Court for stealing a watch. He tore it from the coat of a gentleman who was walking in Walworth, and when he was pursued the prisoner took up the cry of "Stop thief," and alleged that the thief had entered a house to which he pointed. He was found, on his arrest, to be wearing two suits of clothes, and the stolen watch was in the jacket pocket.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Tuesday, the action of Grant and wife v. Buck, for compensation for an alleged libel, was commenced before Mr. Justice Manisty and a common jury. Mrs. Grant was a medical licentiate and had attended Mrs. Buck, and Mr. Grant had received a postcard calling him "doctor," and saying he would be arrested for wilful murder. Mr. Justice Manisty said there was no cause of action, and gave judgment for defendant, with costs, allowing

a stay of execution if £50 were lodged in court within four days.

Mr. Chamberlain was entertained at a banquet at Philadelphia on Wednesday night by the resident Englishmen.

At Liverpool Assizes, Moses Cuderton, a Wigan cabdriver, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for the manslaughter of a man, named William Baldwin, by running over him.

The charge against Mr. Jay Gould and Mr. Sage, the American millionaires, of misappropriating Kansas and Pacific Railway bonds has been dismissed.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court on Wednesday, John Wright was committed for trial on the charge of being concerned in breaking into a warehouse in Compton Passage and attempting to steal whalebone to the value of £250.

Lord Derby, writing to a Bolton correspondent on the position of the Liberal Unionists, says he regrets the existing state of political affairs, but as matters stand he does not see that any compromise can be made on the Home Rule question.

At the Birkenhead Police Court, Frederick Willmot, Michael Mullen, and James Glass have been committed to take their trial for the manslaughter of William Thomas Stretch, the stoker, who received fatal injuries in the recent railway collision near Hoylake.

At the Liverpool Police Court, Sarah Boadle, a single woman, of 32, Curate-road, West Derby, and Eugene George Anson, a clerk, with whom she lived, have been committed to the Lancaster Assizes for trial on a charge of wilful murder by starving their child, six weeks old.

The report of the Panama Canal Company's directors states that by the adoption of a system of locks the canal will "absolutely" be open for traffic in the year 1890. The directors propose to issue a fresh series of bonds for the sum of twenty-four millions sterling nominal.

A conference of the executive committee of the National Association for the Promotion of Technical Education was held in London on Wednesday. Resolutions were carried as to the authorities who should have the direction of technical education.

A brilliant "at home" has been given by the Governor-general of Canada at Ottawa. An unfortunate accident happened in the course of the proceedings, a collision occurring on one of the toboggan slides, in which six persons, two of them members of the Dominion Parliament, were somewhat seriously injured.

In the London Bankruptcy Court the first meeting of creditors was held under the failure of Thomas Fairbairn, recently declared a defaulter on the London Stock Exchange, and since absconded. The liabilities were said to exceed £20,000. It was resolved to wind up the estate in bankruptcy.

Mr. E. Brodie Hoare, M.P., the newly-elected representative for the borough of Hampstead in Parliament, addressed a largely-attended meeting of his constituents in the Kilburn Town Hall on Wednesday evening, and thanked them for returning him to Parliament. Mr. Samuel Hoare, M.P., moved a resolution congratulating Lord Knutsford on his elevation to the peerage.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday, the action of Mr. H. F. Gibbons, late district court judge of Jamaica, against the Times for an alleged libel, commenced on Tuesday, was summed, and resulted in a verdict for defendant, the jury not thinking that the paragraph complained of went beyond the boundary of fair criticism.

Cardinal Manning has addressed a letter to the Hon. Percy Wyndham on the subject of Ball Trade. His Eminence takes but a gloomy view of the commercial prospects of this country, and confesses that he can discern no remedy. He has believed in Free Trade all his life, but his fear now is that England's prosperity, which began when all the conditions were in our favour, will not last.

At Leeds on Wednesday, Gaythorne Naylor, a private in the Salvation Army, was remanded charged with the manslaughter of his daughter, aged seven months. The deceased had been ill, and the prisoner, who follows the occupation of a miner, refused to call in the services of a doctor, saying he was content to leave the child in the hands of his Heavenly Father, as he was bound to obey the advice of God before man.

A debate of some interest came on in the French Chamber on Wednesday on the foreign policy of the Republic. A member of the Right made some very friendly overtures to Russia, and another criticised the policy of M. Florentin with regard to the recent conventions with England.

M. Florentin defended himself, and explained, with regard to the new Heligoland, that France had no rights of sovereignty in that quarter.

Replying to a letter from Mr. Wilson Noble, M.P., Mr. Balfour declares that a statement reported to have been made by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, a former Irish Secretary under Mr. Gladstone's administration, to the effect that the Irish magistrates received their orders every day from Dublin Castle, is a scandalous libel, no such communication having ever been made by the present executive.

Addressing a meeting of Liberal Unionists in the Northern Division of Birmingham, Mr. T. V. Russell, M.P., said the only settlement of the Irish question lay in the direction of giving tenant farmers a reasonable facility for becoming owners of the land. He was not without hope that the bills which were now before Parliament for accomplishing the desired result would be successfully passed into law this session.

The Bishop of Exeter on Wednesday presented a petition to the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury calling attention to the increasing profanation of the Lord's Day in the metropolis, as shown in the indulgence in amusements of various kinds by the upper and fashionable classes of society. The signatories pray for the counsel and guidance of their lordships, and suggest a protest against Sunday excursion trains and Sunday entertainments.

At the adjourned debate on Wednesday evening by the Oxford Union Society on the question of Home Rule, Mr. John Morley replied at length to the speech made by Lord Randolph Churchill last week, remarking that the noble lord was a man of great breadth, insight, and liberality of mind, and that, consequently, it was no wonder that he had left Mr. Gladstone's Government. Subsequently the Home Rule resolution was rejected by a majority of 200.

At the Gateshead Police Court, 170 miners employed by Messrs. Bowes and Co. at Felling and Wardley, were fined 5s. and costs each for having absented themselves from work for four days without having given notice. The defendants "laid the pits idle" because the manager would not "lay off" in order to counterbalance matters, a lad who had happened to earn a little extra money. The prosecuting solicitor said the prosecution was determined to put down what was a system of terrorism and intimidation.

Lord G. Hamilton, who was the principal speaker at the house dinner of the Conservative Club on Wednesday, referring to the condition of Ireland, said that by the indomitable courage and energy of Mr. Balfour lawlessness was being suppressed. The present Admiralty had been able to put into condition for commission a larger number of ships and a greater tonnage than all the other Powers of Europe combined. The prospects of the Government were improving, and their supporters had beaten their opponents hollow.

The annual meeting of the members of the Middlesex Conservative Association was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday under the presidency of Colonel Sir Francis B. Morley. The report showed that between 400 and 600 non-resident ownership voters had been added to the various registers during the last registration, in addition to a large amount of work having been done in the way of corrections and claims to vote at more convenient polling places. The report was adopted, and a resolution of confidence in

Lord Salisbury and her Majesty's Government was carried with acclamation.

Fifteen and thirteen years are the respective ages of an Illinois bride and bridegroom.

Several schoolboys were boating on Wednesday on Lake Kilmihil, when the boat suddenly sank, and two of them were drowned.

A memorial bust of the late Dr. Fraser, Bishop of Manchester, who died at the end of 1887, was unveiled in the Town Hall, Bolton, on Wednesday.

The Government of the Congo State is threatened with a law suit relative to a loan by a financier who was formerly its adviser.

Mr. F. A. Channing, M.P. for East Northamptonshire, has been confined to his house by a severe chill.

The Worshipful Company of Grocers have given a donation of £50 to the restoration fund of Christ Church, Blackfriars-road.

Thus has Liberalism degenerated at Birmingham. Its new club premises are offered for sale, by auction.

Mrs. Grant has already received \$400,000 as her share of the profits from the general's book, and it is still hanging a large sale.

A young fellow named Anderson, living on the Balmoral Estate, was smothered during a heavy snowstorm. His body has just been found in a drift.

Alexander the Great's body has been found—or, rather, the sarcophagus containing it. It is covered the sarcophagi recently discovered at Said.

Miss Van Wart, granddaughter of the late Marshall O'Roberts, is believed to be the wealthiest young woman in America. She inherits nearly \$3,000,000.

Some angry Scotchmen of Kintail had actually erected a substantial hut among the hills and arranged it as a distillery. The police interrupted their work, and the hut has now disappeared.

Mr. Joseph Barclay, solicitor and town clerk, of Maclefield since 1879, died suddenly of heart disease at his residence on Wednesday night, aged 49 years.

The number of paupers in London, exclusive of lunatics in asylums and vagrants, is 110,438, as compared with 104,632 for the corresponding time of last year, 103,300 in 1886, and 97,164 in 1885.

Direct through traffic was resumed on Thursday from London to Portsmouth on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, after having been suspended since July last, owing to the collapse of the Betchworth Tunnel, at Dorking.

Lord Londonderry, Count Herbert Bismarck, and a large party left Dublin Castle on Thursday, and proceeded by special train to Drumree, county Meath, to attend some private steeplechases.

Hunter, the alleged defaulting Salford gas manager, was on Thursday committed for trial at Lancaster Assizes on all five counts of the indictment, including forgery and perjury. Bail was refused.

Count Herbert Bismarck arrived in Dublin on Wednesday, and was met at the Westland-row Station by Lord Londonderry, with whom he drove to the Castle, where he will remain as the Lord-lieutenant's guest for some days.

Two engines attached to goods trains collided on the North London Railway at Chalk Farm Station on Wednesday evening, causing one of the engines and eight trucks to leave the rails. No one was injured, but traffic was delayed for a considerable time.

On Thursday morning a new station was opened on the London and North-Western Railway at West End-lane, Hampstead, between Finchley-road and Brondesbury Stations on that line. This will be a great convenience to residents at West Hampstead.

The feed pumps of H.M.'s cruiser Northampton broke down on Wednesday during the official steam trial. She returned to Sheerness in the afternoon to make good defects. The Northampton has just been re-fitted for foreign service at a cost of £40,000.

At a meeting of the Fife and Clackmannan coal owners, held at Dunfermline on Thursday, it was agreed to terminate the lockout of the men, and to declare the pits open after Monday, leaving the question as to the retention of wages in lieu of house rent to be determined hereafter.











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**L. Q. C. LAWAN,** Secretary Interior, U.S.A.  
**JOSEPH E. SNOWS,** Senator, U.S.A.

Atlanta, Ga., U.S.A., October 13th, 1887.

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